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The Caledonian Mercury.

Edinburgh, Thurſday, February 17, 1726.

Wyn's Letter, verbatim, London, Feb. 10.

LEtters from Vienna of the 2d inſtant remark, That the Negociations betwixt the Imperial and Ruſſian Courts, were ſtill carrying on, but 'twas not known when they will be brought to a Concluſion: Mean Time 'tis ſaid Prince Eugene, who does not go to Warſaw as was reported, took Occaſion in a late Diſcourſe he had with the Miniſter of Great Britain, to declare, that the ſaid Treaty, would not be in the leaſt prejudicial to any of the high Allies, and that the Emperor thought that his Britannick Majeſty would not ſuffer any of the Potentates who had entred into the Treaty of Hanover to excite new Troubles and Diſturbances either in the Empire or Poland; but as to this Treaty, the ſame was made with no other View or Deſign, than to preſerve the Peace and Balance of Europe, and to ſecure to the Subjects of Great Britain, the Enjoyment of many valuable Rights and Privileges, acquired to them by the moſt ſolemn Treaties; and no Doubt but the Treaty of Hanover; and the vigour and Reſolution of the Britiſh Parliament will ſoon be ſeen. 'Tis now aſſured, That Count Staremberg will ſhortly ſet out from Vienna for London, in the ſame Quality as before, as Ambaſſador from the Emperor; who on the 3d paſt diſpatched the Expreſs which lately came from Spain, back again with his Imperial Majeſties Inſtructions, relating not only to Gibraltar and Portmahon, but alſo to the Navigation of the Oſtend Company; and 'tis believed theſe Reſolutions do not run altogether in ſo high a train as formerly.

A Mail from France is juſt arrived; the Advices by it are, That a Grand Council was lately held at Madrid, in the King's Preſence, at which ſeveral of the Grandees of the Kingdom aſſiſted, and ſome of them having delivered their Opinions for declaring War againſt certain Powers; the King oppoſed it with ſuch weighty Reaſons, that 'tis ſaid the whole Council came into his Majeſty's Sentiments.

Yeſterday the Commons read a 2d Time the Bill for puniſhing Mutiny and Deſertion; and a Motion being made, and the Queſtion put, that the publick Debt as it ſtood on the 25th of December 1714, with what Debts have been ſince that Time, to December 1725, diſtinguiſhing how much of the ſaid Debt has been provided for; and how much remains unprovided for; and how much remains unprovided for by Parliament, be referred to a private Committee, to ſtate the Debt of the Nation. It paſſed in the Negative, 262, againſt 89. In the Debates Mr. Pultney, and ſome other Gentlemen took Notice of the great Encreaſe of the Debt of the Navy; to which 'twas anſwered by Sir Robert Walpole and others, that the encreaſe of the ſaid Debt had partly been occaſioned by the Deficiencies of the Malt and Land Taxes, and that carrying thoſe Deficiencies from one Year to another, and partly by extraordinary Expences, in the Rebuilding and repairing of his Majeſty's Ships of War; that though the firſt and ſecond Rates lay unimployed in their Harbours, yet they periſhed gradually by Time, and obſerved that the Royal Navy, for the Honour, Intereſt, and Security of the Nation, ought to be kept up, and is in as good a State, as it has been for many Years paſt.

In a Committee on the Supply, 'twas reſolved, That 990,000 l. be granted for paying off and cancelling the like Sum for Exchequer-bills, being the remaining Part of one Million, which was made forth, in Purſuance of an Act of the 11th of the King's Reign.

This Day the Commons being preſented by the King's Order, with the Treaty of Hanover, and that of Peace and Commerce concluded betwixt the Emperor and the King of Spain. Reſolved to conſider of the ſaid Treaty this Day ſennight.

The firſt mentioned Treaty was delivered this Afternoon in Print to the Members of both Houſes.

The publick Stocks begin to riſe: S. Sea is come to 111, and the reſt in Proportion.

Arthur Holſworth, Eſq; is made Fort-Major of the Caſtles and Forts of Dartmouth.

Laſt Night, Lord Harborough going home in his Chair, was ſet upon by two Foot-pads near Piccadilly, who ſhot one of the Chairmen into the Shoulder for refuſing to ſtand. After which they made their Eſcape.

From

From the St. James's Evening-Poſt, Feb. 10.

Warſaw, Feb. 1. On the 25th paſt, they read in the Congreſs of the Senate, the Imperial Ambaſſador's Memorial, concerning the Differences about the Limits. The 26th the Czarina's Pretenſions, and the Republick's reply thereupon were read, together with what has paſſed in the Conferences with Prince Dolhorucki, the late Czar pretending then to be acknowledged by the Republick Emperor of Great Ruſſia, and that whatever had been taken from the Greek Clergy, ſhould be reſtored to them. The 28th and 29th, they read the Pretenſions and the Complaints of the Court of Berlin, as likewiſe the Replies the Republick made thereupon. The 31ſt they read, 1ſt, the King of Sweden's Inſtances made to the Emperor, in behalf of the Diſſenters in Poland and Lithuania, and eſpecially about reſtoring to the City of Thorn, its ancient Rights and Privileges, with the Emperor's Anſwer thereupon. 2d, The Emperor's Letter to our King. 3d, The Speeches of Mr. Finch, the Britiſh Miniſter, and the Letters to the King of Great Britain. 4. The Repreſentation of the Affair of Thorn, and the Reply thereupon. 5. The King of Denmark's Inſtances directed to the King, in Favour of the Diſſenters, and the Anſwer ſent to him thereupon.

Vienna, Feb. 2. Prince Eugence having lately ſent for the Envoy of Pruſſia, propoſed to him a Means for accommodating the Affairs of Religion, as well in the Empire as in Poland, and deſired him to ſend this new Project of Accommodation to his Court, and to deſire there the Approbation of it.

Letters from Gomdawerde, Gorcum and other Places in Holland ſay, That the great Heaps of Ice which obſtructed the Courſe of the Rivers, are broke looſe and driven to the Sea; ſince which the Waters were conſiderably abated.

London, Feb. 10. We are informed, that General Diemer, who is newly arrived with a publick Character from the Landgrave of Heſſe-Caſſel, is fully empowered to ſign the Treaty of Hanover, on the Part of his Maſter.

From Miſt's Weekly Journal, - - - -

THE ancient *Greeks* and *Romans* were ſtrict Obſervers of all ſolemn and religious Feſtivals; which Feſtivals were inſtituted on various Occaſions: As firſt, in Honour of the Gods, and eſpecially to ſuch, on whoſe Patronage or Protection they imagined the public Safety did depend. 2dly, They were wont to appoint particular Feſtivals, in order to move the Favour of the Gods for ſome particular Undertaking, or in Time of Famine, Peſtilence, or other public Calamities: And as it was the Cuſtom to have Recourſe to the Oracles, they generally adviſed the People to inſtitute ſome new Feſtival, as the beſt Way to appeaſe the angry Gods.

Others obſerved particular Feſtivals, to commemorate their deceaſt Friends, or thoſe who had conferred particular Favours on the People, gain'd conſiderable Victories over their Enemies, or bravely died in their Defence: I ſay, 'twas thought reaſonable by the State, to ſet apart ſome Time for offering Sacrifices to ſuch Men, in grateful Acknowledgment for the Benefits received from 'em.

If the Ancients, who had no Notion of the Worſhip of GOD, were ſo grateful for Benefits conferrd on them or their Country, as to make it a Part of their Religion to celebrate their Memories; What ſhould not we do, who are *Chriſtians*, and have received the Light of the Goſpel, in Commemoration of the *Nativity* of the SAVIOUR of the World?

'Tis the Cuſtom of all Countries, which have received the true Faith, to diſtinguiſh the Feſtival of *Chriſtmaſs*, not only by a more ſtrict Attendance on the Service of the Church, but alſo by Viſits among Friends, by Feaſting, Acts of Charity, forgetting for a while the Cares of the World, and by a more extraordinary Mirth and good Humour. And herein we follow the Precepts of the Goſpel, which tells us, *That God delights in a chearful Heart.*

The *Romans* had a particular Holiday, which they called *Chariſtia*, or the *Feſtival of Love*; when all the Relations of every Family met together, to have Feaſt, at which they promiſed to maintain Unity, Concord, and Love to one another; wiſhing that all might live to meet again.

Amongſt us, *Chriſtmaſs* is the Feſtival of Love, wherefore we ought to keep it as ſuch, by forgetting little Piques and Jealouſies, the ceaſing of Animoſities, and baniſhing far all Contention: Nay, the Lawyer ought to forget to wrangle, and the Uſurer to oppreſs; that nought might diſturb the Quiet and good Humour which ſhould reign in all Companies.

The Ancients inſtituted ſeveral Feſtivals, ſacred to Concord, good Humour and Freedom; amongſt which, that which was called the *Saturnalia*, as to the Ceremonies and Cuſtoms therein obſerved, had in many Circumſtances a near Relation to the Freedoms in uſe among us at *Chriſtmaſs*. The Original of it is ſo old, that it was celebrated in *Italy* long before the building of *Rome*; and was firſt inſtituted in Honour of *Saturn*.

At this Feſtival, Servants had a Liberty of being free and merry with their Maſters, and of rallying them upon their little Follies. And who has converſed with good Country Families among us, who keep up to the old Way of living, may obſerve at *Chriſtmaſs* an Indulgence like this, allowed to Servants at this Day.

At this Feſtival alſo, all Schools kept Vacation, and it was the Cuſtom for Friends to make Preſents to each other, as is practiſed amongſt us at *Chriſtmaſs and Newyears Day*. This Time was alſo held ſo ſacred, that no War was to be proclaimed, nor no Malefactor executed till it was over, and nothing but Mirth, Freedom and good Humour, was to be met with throughout the City.

We read in *Macrobius*, and ſeveral other Writers, who have taken Notice of this Feſtival, that it was annually held to commemorate the Golden Age of *Saturn*; and the Ceremonies and Cuſtoms then practiſed, may well be thought to be Types and Repreſentations of theſe of our *Chriſtmaſs*. And as the Freedom allowed Servants, gave an Idea of that happy Time, when there were no ſuch Names as Servants and Maſters known in the World, but all Men were equal, the mutual Preſents amongſt Friends, the Feaſting, the Love and good Humour might figure to them what Men were, before avarice had corrupted their Hearts, and all Things, like the common Air, were as free as Providence firſt deſigned them.

Let us always imitate them, in the Celebration of the Great Feſtival of *Chriſtmaſs*. Let us alſo remember *Saturn's* Golden Days, when Peace reigned and Plenty flowed, and Mirth and good Humour crown'd every Board; before the Delays of Law, Stocks, South Sea Directors, or ---------- plagued Mankind. And let us hope for the Return of the Golden Age.

But let us not turn this Mirth and Freedom to bad Uſes; let us not hear of the *noiſy Rout* of *Bacchus and his Revellers*. I ſay let us *be merry and wiſe*; for how ſhameful and abhorred would it be to behold our Streets troubled with boiſterous drunken People? to have our Ears wounded with Oaths and Imprecations, or lewd Raillery; or to be ſhocked with the clamorous Noiſe of Quarrels; all which are the common Effects of Drunkenneſs and Intemperance.

But as all, little as well as great Irregularities come to our Notice, I hope this Sacred Feſtival will now paſs without any Complaints; for tho' it is our Buſineſs to tell Tales, I ſhould be ſorry to have any of this Nature to relate.

No Foreign Mails ſince our laſt.

From the Evening Poſt, Feb. 12.

Hague, Feb. 12. The Marquis de S. Philippe, Ambaſſador of the K. of Spain, went this Morning to the Houſe of the Baron de Linden, Preſident of the Admiralty of their H. Mightineſſes for this Week, and delivered to him his Credential Letters; and this Afternnoon the Baron paid a Viſit to his Excellency, and in the Name of their H. Mightineſſes, congratulated him on his Arrival in this Country. We hear the ſaid Ambaſſador will ſhortly make his publick Entry.

Paris, Feb. 4. The Son of a private Man in the Street of St. Honor, who is but 11 Years of Age, got with Child a Girl of 9, who being ſafely brought to Bed, the Parents of both have obliged them to marry.

Paris, Feb. 16. The 18 Cartuchian Robbers who ſome Time ago were apprehended in Britanny, have been brought hither and commited to ſeveral Goals, they will be brought to their Trial, as ſoon as they have been confronted with others of the ſame Gang, who are Priſoners here. Several Inſpectors of the Cavalry, did ſet out lately for the Frontiers, to receive ſome Thouſands of Horſes, which were bought in Foreign Countries for the King's Troops.

Stockholm, Jan. 31. The Admiralty has reſolved, that three Fregates ſhall be fitted out to be ſent to the Eaſt Indies.

London, Feb. 12. *Lutterworth in Leiceſterſhire, Feb.* 7. There were found lately in the Field, by two Men digging of Clay, 6 Silver, and 8 or ten of Copper Medals of Roman Coin, the Silver ones about the bigneſs of a Sixpence, but much thicker, and the Copper near as large as half a Crown, but above twice as thick. When the Silver Medals were made clean, the Impreſſions appeared very plain, and they are of Julius Cæſar, Trajan, Veſpaſian, &c. but the Copper ones are defaced.

On Wedneſday laſt Major General Stewart was ſeized with an Apoplexy, and continues dangerously ill.

S. S. Stock 110, 3 4ths. York Buildings, 14.

From Miſt's Weekly Journal, Feb. 12.

We are adviſed from Paris, That one Mr. Baſteurs pretends to have diſcovered the Secret of foretelling Tempeſts and Hurricanes; and particularly, That on the 6th of December laſt, he gave Notice to one of the Directors of the India Company, and to ſeveral Perſons of Diſtinction, that there would be a Storm on the 12th of the ſame

Month,

Month. He alſo declared that there would be a great Storm in Sweden, Ruſſia and the Baltick Sea, on the 4th of February; and that on the 9th there would be a Storm which would be felt from Vienna to London, and from Lyons to Amſterdam: And the Writer of the Amſterdam News takes notice, that they felt a Storm there that very Day.

They write from Edinburgh, that a Kirk Preacher in the Country betwixt that City and Glaſgow, having been accuſed of Adultery, the Matter was examining into by the Brotherhood; and notwithſtanding he was catch'd in the Fact, 'tis not doubted but he will be cleared, by the charitable Means of a *Fellow feeling*.

We hear that ſome of the Highlanders who have concealed their Arms, behave very inſolently.

London, Feb. 12. Several Promotions have been made this Week among the military Men.

From the Whitehall Evening Poſt, Feb. 12.

London, Feb. 12. By the Treaty of Defenſive Alliance between G. Britain, France and Pruſſia, concluded at Hanover the 3d of September laſt, it is agreed, That if it ſhould happen that any of the ſaid Powers ſhould be openly atttacked, or moleſted in their true Intention of the ſaid Alliance, for preſerving the Peace of their reſpective Kingdoms and Dominions; his Britannic Majeſty is to furniſh the following Succours, viz. 3000 Foot, and 4000 Horſe, his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty 8000 Foot and 4000 Horſe, and his Pruſſian Majeſty 3000 Foot, and 2000 Horſe. But if the Party attacked had rather be ſupplied with Men of War, Tranſports, or Money, (which ſhall always be left to his Choice) then the other Powers ſhall furniſh him with Ships, or Money, in Proportion to the Expence of the ſaid Troops.

Portſmouth, Feb. 8. Sir Charles Wager arrived here this Afternoon, to haſten the Equipment of the Squadron ordered to be fitted out: His Flag was immediately hoiſted on board the *Captain*, not the *Monmouth*, as was falſly aſſerted in ſome of the London Prints.

They write from Worceſter, That two Men being ſinking a new Brine-Pit about Rutwich, a vein of Brine ſprung up ſo haſtily that they were both ſmothered to Death.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

†¶† Theſe are to advertiſe, That whereas the Honourable Society *for Improving in the Knowledge of Agriculture*, at Meeting on the 17th of December laſt, having taken to their Conſideration, That great Quantities of Foreign Linen are imported, to the great Prejudice of the Linen manufactured in Britain; and that, if there were due Encouragement, there is and may be Linen of the fineſt, and all other Kinds, manufactured and ſtamped in ſuch Quantities, as that the ſame may fully ſatisfie the domeſtic Conſumpt: Did therefore reſolve, That from and after the ſaid 17th of December, they would give all due Encouragement to the ſole Wearing and Uſing of the Manufacture aforeſaid; and that from and after the firſt Day of Auguſt next, they would not buy, for their Perſon or domeſtic Uſe, any Foreign plain, ſtampt or ſtained Linen. And this being chiefly deſigned for the Encouragement of thoſe who are daily employed in that Manufactory, 'twas expected, that they would forthwith ſet about the Making and Whitening of Holland and Linen, to the greateſt Perfection they are capable; for which they might expect ready Sale, if ſufficient and at reaſonable Rates. As alſo, it was then recommended to the Members of the *Society*, in their ſeveral Diſtricts to uſe their Endeavours, and to ſolicite the Authority of others, to ſuppreſs the Running of Foreign Spirits, whereby the Revenue is defrauded, and the ſaid Spirits ſold below the Values at which our Home-Spirits can be afforded: And that they would promote and encourage the Uſe of our Domeſtic Spirits, which would tend to the Conſumption of, and putting a greater Value upon our own Grain and other Vegetables.

†¶† 'Tis advertiſed to the Members of the Honourable Society for improving in the Knowledge of Agriculture, to attend the Anniverſary Meeting of the ſaid Society, at James Moir's in Hope Park, near Edinburgh, on Saturday the 19th Inſtant.

That the two firſt Storeys of the Houſe preſently poſſeſs'd by Mr. Moir at Burrow loch, or Hope-park, near Edinburgh; Are to be ſett for a Year, or in Tack, at Whitſunday next 1726. Any Vintner who has a mind for the ſame may call at Mr. Hope of Rankeilor's Lodging in the Parliament-Cloſs, or at the ſaid Mr. Moir's.

EDINBURGH: Printed for Mr. *William Rolland*, by Mr. *Thomas Ruddiman* Sold at the Printing-houſe in Morocco's Cloſs in the Lawn-market; where Advertiſements and Subſcriptions are taken in, as alſo at the Shop of Mr. Alexander Symmer, Bookſeller in the Parliament-Cloſs.